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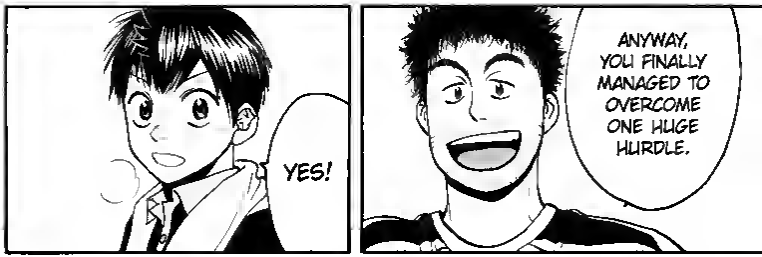
EI-
CHA~N!!
#155: ZONE

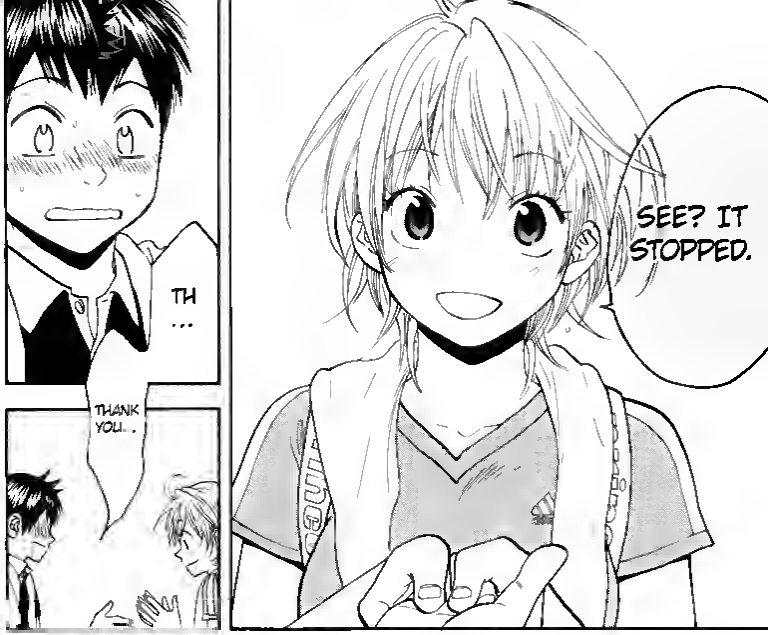
ADVANCING TO THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR!
WO AH
CONGR-
ATULA-
TIONS!!

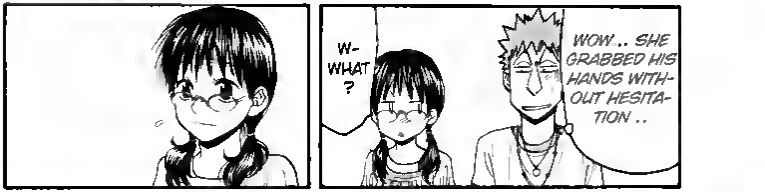
YOUR OPPONENT WAS DEFINITELY A TOP-LEVEL PLAYER EVEN IN THE NATIONALS.
CONGRATULATIONS, MARUO-KUN!
I WAS ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT THE WHOLE TIME.
BUT THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A MATCH!

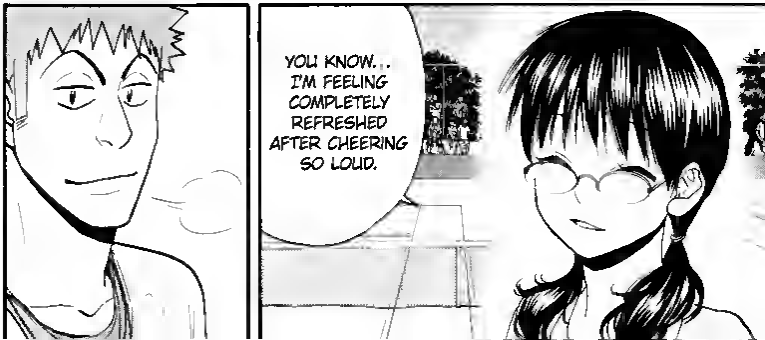

YES!
ANYWAY, YOU FINALLY MANAGED TO OVERCOME ONE HUGE HURDLE.

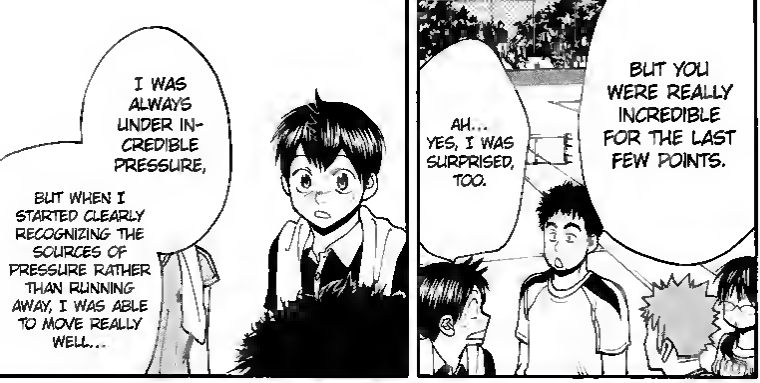
NOW WE CAN GO TO THE NATIONALS TOGETHER!
YUP!
KAGEYAMA, SASAKI-SAN, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, TOO.
I COULD TELL THAT YOU CAME, NACCHAN.
YOU WON YOUR MATCH, RIGHT?

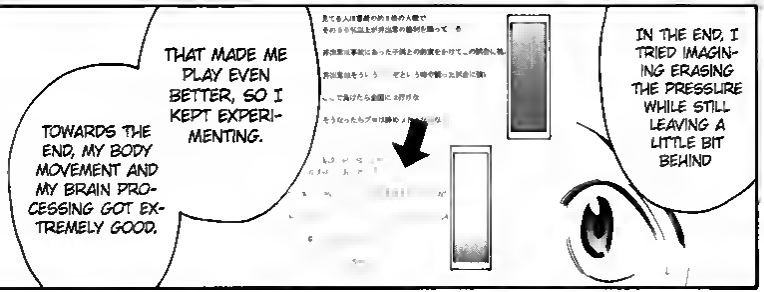
WHY'S IT STARTING TO SHAKE NOW?
HUH ...?
ぎゅっ
ぎゅーっ
EH?!
IT'S OKAY.


SEE? IT STOPPED.
TH ...
THANK YOU..


W-WHAT?
WOW.. SHE GRABBED HIS HANDS WITHOUT HESITATION..


YOU KNOW.. I'M FEELING COMPLETELY REFRESHED AFTER CHEERING SO LOUD.


I WAS ALWAYS UNDER INCREDIBLE PRESSURE,
BUT WHEN I STARTED CLEARLY RECOGNIZING THE SOURCES OF PRESSURE RATHER THAN RUNNING AWAY, I WAS ABLE TO MOVE REALLY WELL...
AH... YES, I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.
BUT YOU WERE REALLY INCREDIBLE FOR THE LAST FEW POINTS.

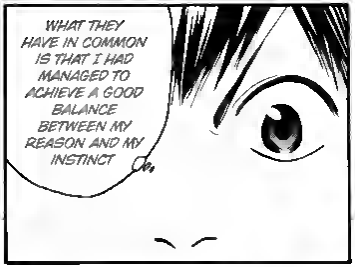

TOWARDS THE END, MY BODY MOVEMENT AND MY BRAIN PROCESSING GOT EXTREMELY GOOD.
THAT MADE ME PLAY EVEN BETTER, SO I KEPT EXPERIMENTING.
IN THE END, I TRIED IMAGINING ERASING THE PRESSURE WHILE STILL LEAVING A LITTLE BIT BEHIND

OR WHY I WAS ABLE TO MOVE SO WELL. I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I WAS ABLE TO REMAIN SO RELAXED IN THAT DESPERATE SITUATION..
YES... BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU WERE REALLY DOING ALL THAT?
In that situation.

BUT I WAS SO FOCUSED THAT I COULD BARELY SEE, HEAR OR PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING ELSE.
UMM... I COULD SEE MY OPPONENT, THE BALL AND THE COURT REALLY CLEARLY,
CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?
THEY SAY HUMANS ONLY USE 30% OF THEIR POTENTIAL EVEN WHEN THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING THEIR BEST.
YOU COULD SAY THE ZONE IS A STATE WHERE THAT RESTRAINT IS REMOVED.
MAYBE YOU WERE IN THE "ZONE".
ZONE?
THEY SAY THIS IS THE RESULT OF REALIZING ONE'S TRUE POTENTIAL BY GETTING INTO THE ZONE UPON FACING A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION.
IT'S PRETTY COMMON TO HEAR A PERSON WHO ALMOST GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT SAYING "I WAS SAVED BECAUSE IT FELT LIKE I WAS SEEING THINGS IN SLOW MOTION."

I HEARD THERE ARE EVEN PLAYERS WHO CAN CONSCIOUSLY CREATE SUCH A STATE IN THE EXTREME TOP LEVELS OF THE SPORTING WORLD.
YOU CAN CREATE IT?!
I THOUGHT IT HAPPENED BECAUSE VARIOUS CONDITIONS WERE SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY FULFILLED, BUT ..
THAT STATE ..
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, IDE IS A PLAYER WHO ENTERS A STATE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE ZONE WHEN HE'S FACING A DRAMATIC SITUATION.
I GUESS IN THE END, YOU WERE ABLE TO MATCH THAT IDE BY GOING INTO THE ZONE YOURSELF.
IT DEFINITELY FELT LIKE IDE-KUN WOULD GET EVEN STRONGER FROM THERE ON..
SO I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE WON IF I HADN'T MANAGED TO BREAK THERE.
NO... REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED, THIS VICTORY IS A FRUIT OF YOUR HARD WORK.

I CERTAINLY MIGHT HAVE GONE INTO THE ZONE WITH MY OWN STRENGTH...
IF I MANAGED TO GET INTO THAT STATE BY VISUALIZING THE PRESSURE IN MY HEAD AND TRYING TO PLAY INSTINCTIVELY...
FRUIT OF MY HARD WORK...


WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT I HAD MANAGED TO ACHIEVE A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN MY REASON AND MY INSTINCT

I FELT A SIMILAR SENSATION DURING MY MATCH AGAINST ALEX.
THERE WAS ALSO THE MATCH AGAINST ARAYA-KUN.
AND TODAY'S MATCH..

IF I LEARN TO CONSCIOUSLY CREATE THIS STATE CALLED "THE ZONE"...
タイム!

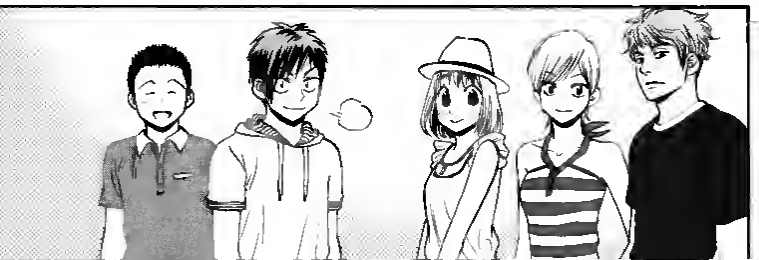
APPARENTLY IDE LOST!
YOU SERIOUS? TO WHOM?!
Match in Court No.9 has ended.
Would the next scheduled players please proceed to the court in a timely manner
I'M SORRY.
I COULDN'T KEEP THE PROMISE EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO WATCH.

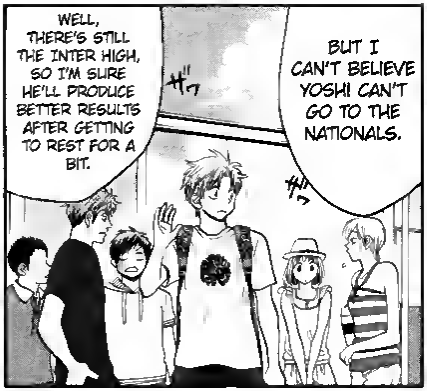
SO...
Sh
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
HUH?!
SO ONCE MY LEGS GET BETTER, I'LL GO BEAT HIM!
I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
HA HA ...
I'M GONNA START FROM TODAY!
WAIT... DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO PLAY TENNIS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?

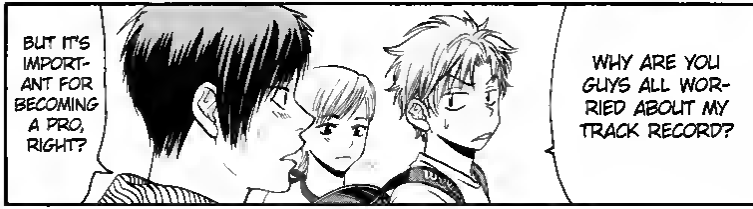
'CUZ TENNIS IS THE BEST!!
THAT'S GOOD!! THAT'S SU-PER-DUPER GOOD!!

YUP!

YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT!
BUT BEATING HIM WOULD MEAN YOU'RE GONNA BECOME MY RIVAL.




WELL, THERE'S STILL THE INTER HIGH, SO I'M SURE HE'LL PRODUCE BETTER RESULTS AFTER GETTING TO REST FOR A BIT.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOSHI CAN'T GO TO THE NATIONALS.

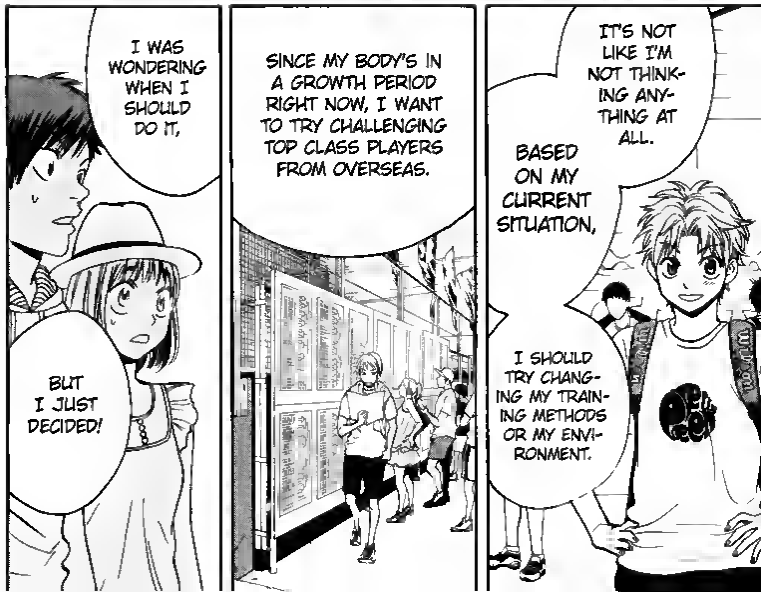

BUT IT'S IMPORTANT FOR BECOMING A PRO, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS ALL WORRIED ABOUT MY TRACK RECORD?

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME RIGHT NOW IS TO TAKE REVENGE ON HIM, SINCE IT'S BECAUSE MY SKILLS WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
THOSE THINGS ALL COME TOGETHER AS LONG AS I KEEP DOING WHAT I NEED TO DO.

I'M GONNA GO OVERSEAS SOMETIME THIS YEAR.
Wilson
Wilson
WOAH?!
HUH?!
WAIT A SECOND! HAVE YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS OUT?
WELL, IT'S TENNIS, SO PROBABLY SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA OR EUROPE.
WAIT... W-WHERE?
I THINK I'LL HEAD OUT RIGHT AWAY ONCE THE INTER HIGH'S OVER.

EH-HH-HH-HHH?!
I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT WHEN I GET THERE.
DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE MONEY?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT SCHOOL!
HOW ABOUT THE LANGUAGE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?

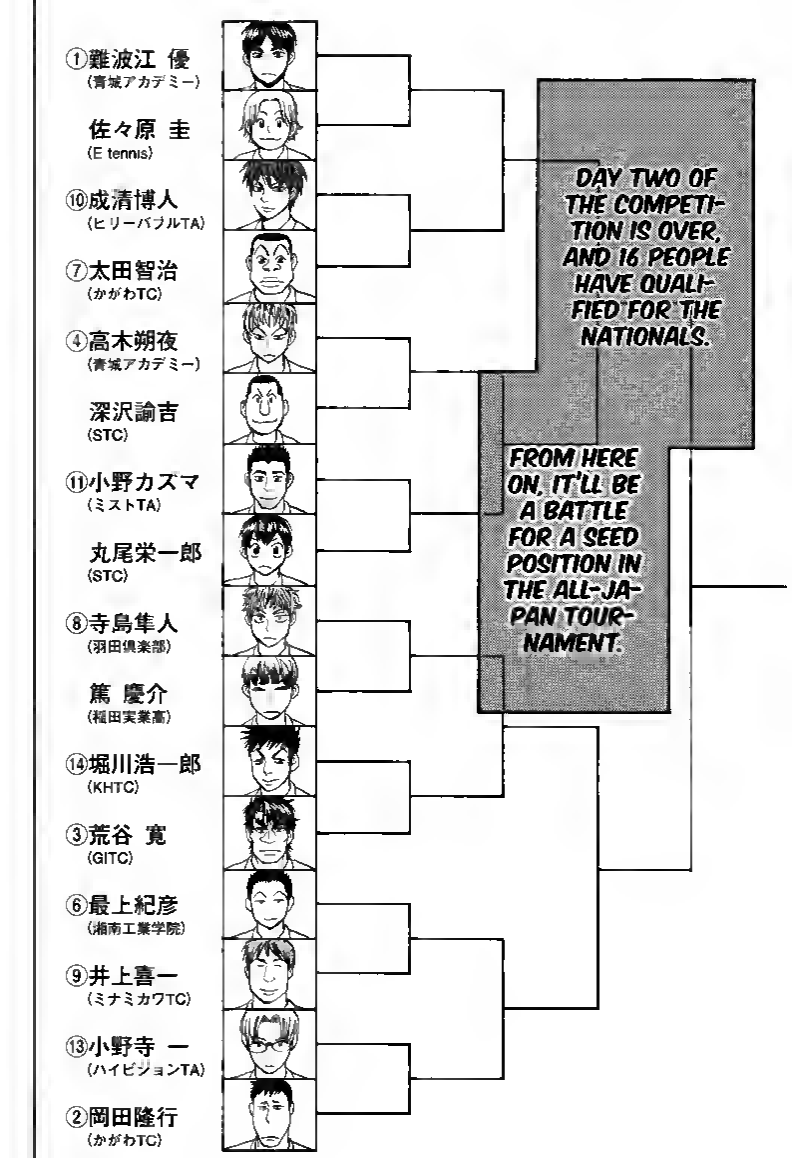

I WAS WONDERING WHEN I SHOULD DO IT,
BUT I JUST DECIDED!
SINCE MY BODY'S IN A GROWTH PERIOD RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO TRY CHALLENGING TOP CLASS PLAYERS FROM OVERSEAS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT THINKING ANYTHING AT ALL.
BASED ON MY CURRENT SITUATION,
I SHOULD TRY CHANGING MY TRAINING METHODS OR MY ENVIRONMENT.

I'LL COME BACK AS A BETTER MAN.
YOU NEVER TAKE BACK ANYTHING YOU SAY, SO NO POINT TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT...
WE'LL MISS YOU A LOT, YOSHI.
WE'LL BE SUPPORTING YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.
DON'T FORGET TO STAY IN TOUCH.

ANIKI
~~~!!
We're all done with today's matches.
All staff, please meet in the Main Office..

I'M GOING TO THE NATION-ALS, TOO!!
FIRST NATIONALS
I WONN NNNN NNN!!
~~~

I ALWAYS THOUGHT ANIKI WOULD BE ALL TENSE AND NERVOUS FROM THE MATCHES WITH THE ALL-JAPAN AT STAKE,
BUT SCREW TENSE AND NERVOUS, YOU WERE GOING ALL LOVEY-DOVEY.
ARG
YOU KNOW HOW NO ONE PAYS ATTENTION TO A NON-PRO-CANDIDATE LIKE ME, RIGHT?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO ANIKI!
HUH?
WOW!
R-REALLY?! CONGRATULATIONS, YUKICHI-KUN!!
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M RELAXED OR SOMETHING, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M FEELING SUPER GREAT
ONCE I HEARD THAT, I WENT WAY PAST RAGE AND JUST OPENED UP.
LET'S DO OUR BEST IN THE NATIONALS!
I'M GLAD ANIKI WON, TOO.
WE'VE STILL GOT THE 3RD ROUND!
MY DREAM FINALLY CAME TRUE...
C-CONGRATULATIONS!
I CAN SORT OF UNDERSTAND HOW HE'S FEELING..
It's thanks to me?
6-4, 3-6, 6-4, A GRAND VICTORY AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE!!


①難波江 優
(青城アカデミー)
佐々原 圭
(E tennis)
⑩成清博人
(ヒリーバブルTA)
⑦太田智治
(かがわTC)
④高木朔夜
(青城アカデミー)
深沢諭吉
(STC)
⑪小野カズマ
(ミストTA)
丸尾栄一郎
(STC)
⑧寺島隼人
(羽田倶楽部)
篤 慶介
(稲田実業高)
⑭堀川浩一郎
(KHTC)
③荒谷 寛
(GITC)
⑥最上紀彦
(湘南工業学院)
⑨井上喜一
(ミナミカワTC)
⑬小野寺 一
(ハイビジョンTA)
②岡田隆行
(かがわTC)
DAY TWO OF THE COMPETITION IS OVER, AND 16 PEOPLE HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE NATIONALS.
FROM HERE ON, IT'LL BE A BATTLE FOR A SEED POSITION IN THE ALL-JAPAN TOURNAMENT.

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Baby Steps

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